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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Letter dated 28 March 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In connection with the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995, I have the honour to transmit the attached Declaration of Latin American Parliamentarians, adopted by consensus by Latin American parliamentarians on the occasion of the Summit.

In view of the document's substantive and political importance, I should like to request that it be distributed as an official document of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, to be held at Headquarters from 10 to 20 April 1995.

I also consider it of substantive importance for the debates to be held in the General Assembly as a follow-up to the Summit, as decided in the context of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, particularly paragraph 95 (a) thereof, that this letter and its annex should be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 107 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) R. Carlos SERSALE di CERISANO
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/50/50.

ANNEX

Declaration of Latin American Parliamentarians

The undersigned Latin American parliamentarians share the recognition shown by the international community, through its attendance at this Summit, that poverty is a global problem affecting both the underdeveloped world and the first world, since it gives rise to phenomena that threaten the stability of democracies and cause a variety of global conditions of insecurity triggered by the existence of disturbing social disparities. We therefore value the paradigm of human development that conceives economic growth as being closely linked to social development and the people as being the beneficiary of both.

We came to this Summit, rightly called the "People's Summit", convinced that the only genuine path towards a new civilization must be one centred on the human person, on the vigour of human dignity and the freedom of the human spirit, and on the inalienable right of the individual to live a full life guaranteed by the existence of universal social justice.

Parliaments waged an historic struggle to generate political citizenship and extend it throughout the world. Later, through a new generation of constitutional reforms and bodies of positive law, they opened the way to social citizenship. This Summit affords a great opportunity to include in the international agenda and in the role of national parliaments the challenge of enabling all peoples and all human beings, men and women, effectively to exercise their right of access to the market for goods and, above all, the labour market, thereby permitting economic citizenship.

Accordingly, in working to design more efficient instruments for poverty eradication, countries and their parliaments will have to consider the implementation of projects and programmes, adapted to the specific economic and social realities of each country, that guarantee minimum incomes.

Our task, as legislators, is to tear down the walls of indifference to the issue of growth without equity and to the coexistence of economic superdevelopment with human underdevelopment.

As parliamentarians, we pledge ourselves to the ongoing, systematic follow-up of social development commitments and programmes undertaken both at this Summit and at the national level, in order to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and progress of such policies and the impact they have had on the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the reduction of social marginalization.

We reiterate our concern about the external debt, which is hindering the development of affected countries. We reaffirm that the International Court of Justice should intervene on this issue and rule on the debt's legitimacy. We propose to create a regional forum to study and measure the impact of speculative financial transactions on our countries' economies, and from time to time we shall propose measures for monitoring such transactions and taxing them to pay for social programmes. We propose to study ways of effectively reaping

the "peace dividend". As representatives of the people, we shall introduce the necessary amendments to our countries' national budgets to permit application of the 20/20 formula. We affirm the need for the highly developed countries to implement official development assistance programmes fully.

In short, we want to open the doors to the demand for individual rights and universal social justice as the ethical underpinnings of human development.

(Signed) Antonia CAFIERO
Senator
Argentina

(Signed) María Antonieta SAA
Congresswoman
Chile

(Signed) Mariana AYLWIN
Congresswoman
Chile

(Signed) Luis Fernando FAGOLDE
Congressman
Bolivia

(Signed) Gloria YOUNG
Legislator
Panama

(Signed) Franco MONTORO
Brazil

(Signed) Ignacio BALBUNTÍN
Congressman
Chile

(Signed) José MAKLOUF
Chile

(Signed) Jorge VALERO
Congressman
Venezuela

(Signed) Roberto Will GUERRERO
Legislator
Panama

(Signed) Francisco Alvarrenga PORTILLO
Congressman
Paraguay

(Signed) Eduardo Matarazzo SUPLIEZ
Senator
Brazil

(Signed) Fanny POLLAROLO
Congresswoman
Chile